National Highway 57

† 1777. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest status of construction of National Highway 57;

(b) the amount sanctioned by Government for highway during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 and the works on which the same was spent;

(c) whether many parts of the highway are in a very bad condition and need to be strengthened urgently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) On National Highway 57, two estimates for improvement of riding quality works in a length of 16 km, three estimates for periodical renewal works in a length of 52.43 km and six estimates for construction of bridges, amounting to Rs. 258.57 lakh, Rs. 442.99 lakh and Rs. 433.97 lakh respectively were sanctioned by the Ministry during 2001-02. This National Highway also forms part of East-West Corridor of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) being implemented by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). The maintenance of the National Highway is still being continued with the State Road Construction Department by NHAI, until four-laning work is taken up. An amount of Rs. 61.40 lakh during 2002-03 has been released to the State Road Construction Department by NHAI, on an ad-hoc basis, for repair and maintenance.

(c) and (d) Out of 310 kms length of NH-57, there is a missing link, approximately 50 km length including bridge across river Kosi. Construction of this missing link and strengthening in the remaining stretches would be taken up along with the four laning of National Highway 57. Model studies for fixation of site and alignment of Kosi bridge is already in progress and is targeted to be completed by February 2003. Project preparation of four laning of this National Highway, including strengthening, is proposed to be taken up in 2003-04 by NHAI and construction is targeted to be taken up In 2004-05. The entire project is targeted to be completed by December 2007.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.